

Greetings Federation Friends and Colleagues,

As I write you today on this delightfully sunny day, I look forward to seeing you at several upcoming events this spring. There is so much to share with you.

First, please note your calendar for Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> for the 101<sup>st</sup> Michigan Federation of Music Clubs Annual Convention. I look forward to this event annually as it is filled with exceptional professional musical talent, award winning students, guest speakers, and quality time with our Federation friends.

Our NFMC national guest is Dr. Ouida Keck, an NFMC Past President and current Scholarship Awards Chair. This brilliant and talented leader will provide insight into club development and Federation scholarship awards. Dr. Keck holds a BA, MM, and DMA in Piano Performance and Pedagogy.

You will find in this *CounterPoint* issue an extended convention schedule expanded to include activities for all Federation members – activities including international music artists, club leadership education, professional development for teachers, and our first annual student and junior convention. Tailor the events to your schedule and interest. Share information among your friends including music enthusiasts, teachers, students, and guests. This event is for everyone!

Next, the MFMC website is completely redesigned. Your MFMC Board secured the NFMC web designer for a complete technology update to provide: 1) Current NFMC and MFMC information in real time; 2) Direct links to NFMC and MFMC Awards and Scholarships; and 3) Communication with our tech savvy youth. Also, plans include online club and junior membership registration, a state-wide program calendar to help promote your club, and a Festival management system linked directly to NFMC. This all will be operational prior to this summer.

Next, congratulations to the 226 Michigan Federated teachers who entered 3911 juniors in Federation Festivals this spring. From the youngest beginner on, students love performing their favorite American composers and dazzle us with a second composition of their choice. While Michigan is the home of several Federated composers, two – Catherine Rollin and Helen Marlais, will provide performance and technique workshops at the teacher, student, and junior convention in May.

The Michigan Federation of Music Clubs Citation Award is the highest honor given and presented to those who have contributed outstanding service to club and community. 2018 honorees are The Lansing Musicale Matinee's Penny Draper and Monday Musical Club's Betty Hunt. Both will be honored at the convention's Friday evening Awards Gala along with bios in the MFMC *Profiles* publication.

Finally, Michigan has been named the host for the 2022 National Federation of Music Clubs Conference. Look for more information in the coming months.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time. Your continued support energizes and strengthens our desire to support you. Thank you for all you do.

Laurie M. Marshall

More CounterPoint Items:

Attention all Federation Club Chorus Presidents and Directors: The 2018 MFMC Massed Chorus theme is ***“Salute to American Musical Theatre: Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Leonard Bernstein.”*** The Massed Chorus selection is a choral suite from ***West Side Story***. (JWPepper No. 10310026). This is available in hard copy and download.

Chorus members, please complete the individual convention registration. Also, Chorus Presidents or Directors, please provide a list of those singing in your chorus to the Convention Chair, Jean Watson [jebwatson65@comcast.net](mailto:jebwatson65@comcast.net) and Registration Chair, Marilyn Lee [mlee1936@gmail.com](mailto:mlee1936@gmail.com). Include your club’s chorus solo composition.

All Federated singers are welcome to join the Massed Chorus rehearsal and performance.

**Michigan Federation of Music Clubs Membership:**

Senior Clubs – 20

Junior Festival Sites - 14

Senior Club Members – 1293 (Including NFMC Life Members and teachers)

Individual Members – 4

Teachers - 226

Junior Clubs – 226

Junior Members – 3911